SPAIN. RELIEF OF BASQUE CHILDREN
Basque children

- 12,000 down
- amount of $7,000
- Einstein
- American consul general at Paris
- name and places of children

Social Welfare Conference - Indianapolis - Permanent commission from to investigate
Permanent commission from to investigate
families willing - get together camp
get together camp
will place 10 to 15 children on each camp
will place 10 to 15 children to each camp
3,000 applications, should address

A. Campbell
Fed. Corp.
Third and

Joan Maressa, 9008
DANCE
TO AID CHILDREN OF SPAIN
FRIDAY, MAY 7th 1937, from 9-1
Washington Hotel Ball Room
Meyer Davis Orchestra
Entertainment
Auspices: Washington, D. C. Women's Committee to Aid Children of Spanish Democracy
Ticket $1.00
Tax Exempt

United States Senate
MEMORANDUM
Mr. Jackson please write to
Mrs. O. E. Ralston
Bowie, Maryland.
She is interested in taking
care of one of the Basque
children if they are to
be cared for by private
families. She says she has
several children and would
d like to care for one of them.
if possible
MEMORANDUM

Mr. Wierzbowski of the Jewish Committee against Polish something or other called. They are arranging a demonstration against the Polish Embassy tomorrow afternoon and would like you.
to speak after the demonstration,
Marine Firemen, Oilers & Watertenders Union

Atlantic and Gulf

BALTIMORE BRANCH

1702 EASTERN AVENUE  BALTIMORE, MD.

Mrs. W. Brown Meloney of the N.Y. Herald-Tribune
Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard
Prof. James T. Shotwell of Columbia
Mary Emma Woolley of Mt. Holyoke College,
Helen (Hall) of the Henry Street Settlement
Pauline Emmett, daughter of our Minister to Hague (Netherlands)
Albert Einstein
Mary Simkovich
Mr. Gardner Jackson
906-907 16th Street N.W.
Washington D.C.

Dear Friend:

With reference to our telephone conversation, please find enclosed a copy of the last telegram received from the Spanish Embassy in Paris, and a release which gives you full information on the present situation with regard to the action we propose.

The press release will be sent out here by our office and we would appreciate your releasing it immediately in Washington in your name, as our Washington representative.

As you can readily see, everything depends now upon the attitude the State Department takes. Their first announcement handicapped our enterprise. It is therefore important that you try to persuade them to make a new announcement to the press to the effect that the Basque refugee children could be admitted on a non-quota basis as temporary visitors. We would be also glad to have any particulars concerning the conditions under which they would grant such a temporary visa in order to comply with them.

The new committee, "American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children," would immediately grow tremendously after such an announcement and its fund-raising campaign would be stimulated.

For your personal information, may I add that it is contemplated to place the older children in care of private families while the smaller ones would be placed in camps in groups of ten to twenty-five. We have already created special commissions of social workers to investigate families and camps. They will also supervise the children after their arrival.

We have arranged that five Basque priests shall accompany the convoy - a measure that should protect us from any criticism from the Cardinal.

With best personal regards,

[Signature]

Louis Gibarti
(COPY)

Df NQ053 PARIS 35/33 15th

NLT GIBARTE 20 VESAY STREET NYK

BASQUE GOVERNMENT INFORMED BASQUE DELEGATION PARIS OF GRANTING PERMISSION FOR FIVE HUNDRED CHILDREN FOR USA STOP THIS INFORMATION COMMUNICATED TO U.P. AND A.P. STOP FORWARD THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS EMBASSY

AGENCE ESPAGNE
May 22, 1937

Hon. Cordell Hull
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:-

Honoré Sir:

The American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children is arranging with the Basque Delegation in Paris (attached to the Paris Embassy of Spain) for the transportation of five hundred Basque refugee children to the United States.

This is part of a concerted effort by democratic countries to help to evacuate women, children, and the unprotected civilian population from the war zone, regardless of race, creed or politics.

It is, of course, unnecessary to call to your attention the terrible emergency that has arisen in the autonomous Basque Republic. We therefore believe that our Government will find no difficulty in giving us assistance within the framework of existing laws.

We intend to apply through the American Consulate General in Paris for temporary visitors' (non-quota) visas which will enable the children to take refuge in the United States during the Spanish civil war.

Apart from this routine application, however, we would like to inquire concerning the views of the State Department on this matter. We feel confident that we will be fortunate enough to have your assistance should minor technical difficulties appear to hamper this humanitarian enterprise.

Awaiting your reply, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Frank John, Secretary
American Board of Guardians
for Basque Refugee Children
Mrs. Henri de Heller  
Warrenton, Virginia

"Yonder Lea", May 23rd, 1937

Mr. Gardner Jackson

Dear Sir:

Seeing the article in the New York Times for May 21st concerning the Basque Refugee Children, I should like to undertake the responsibility and care of one of them if all of them are not already placed.

I have a son of two and a half years and would prefer a boy as near that age as possible. My husband, a Swiss architect, is a Catholic and speaks Spanish. My sister, Mr. James Happer of Melrose Castle Farm, Casanova Va., would like also to contribute to his care and she speaks Spanish too.

Naturally we expect to assume all medical, financial and religious responsibilities and to furnish references.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Edith de Heller
COPY OF
WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

5/28/37

Louis Gibarti,
Room 301,
20 Vesey St.,
New York City.

Please wire me immediately whether application for visas has
been made in Paris or just when it will be stop newspapermen eager for facts stop
is it proper to release Bohms letter for tomorrow morning from here stop Baltimore
front-page
sum/story yesterday phxmsfx on Mrs Herrick consciously provocative piece of
journalism stop reporter who telephoned me gave no indication of what he had in
mind hope she is notxwxwx troubled.

gardner jackson

charge to:
gardner jackson, room 509a, insurance bldg.
MY LETTER SECRETARY STATE WRITTEN BY OFFICE ASSISTANT MY ABSENCE STOP PLEASE EDIT SOMewhat BEFORE GIVING PRESS STOP CHANGE SALUTATION READ MY DEAR MR SECRETARY ETC THANKS MUCH LETTER FollowS:

=FRANK BOHN.
PARIS COMMITTEE INSTRUCTED APPLY FOR VISAS TOMORROW STOP CHARTERED LINER SINAIA SAILS TOMORROW STJEAN DE LUZ GET CHILDREN IN BILBAO STOP DEPARTURE THERE DEPENDING MILITARY SITUATION SINCE PORT WITHIN FIRE REBEL GUNS STOP TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS PENDING US LINER PRESIDENT HARDING LEAVING HAVRE THIS WEEK FOR FIRST TRANSFER STOP WILL CONTACT MRS HERRICK STOP GIBARTI.

NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE IS MADE FOR REQUESTING A REPLY BY WESTERN UNION
Dear Gardner Jackson,

I read with so much interest the article in the New York TIMES, to the effect that the American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children, with which you are connected, is attempting to find temporary asylum in the United States for five hundred Basque children from Bilbao. I hope your efforts will be successful.

I know something about the problem because our organization too has succeeded in bringing to this country two hundred and fifty German Jewish refugee children. If you should need this as an argument with the State Department, you are at liberty to use it; but don't divulge the source of information.

With kindest regards,

Cordially yours,

Jacob Billikopf

Mr. Gardner Jackson
905 - 15th St. N.W.
Washington, D. C.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

American Committee for Christian-German Refugees
American Friends Service Committee
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Physicians
Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars
Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America
German-Jewish Children's Aid, Inc.

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society
Hospites
Independent Order of B'nai B'rith
International Migration Service
International Student Service
Musicians Emergency Fund, Inc.
National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds
National Council of Jewish Women
Zionist Organization of America
Mr. Gardner Jackson
905 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gardner:

You will find enclosed a carbon of the letter we sent to the Secretary of State today. I had a conversation this afternoon with Dr. Bohn, who promised to contact the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Commerce, (the latter on the question of chartering an American boat).

We therefore decided to delay a similar communication to Mrs. Perkins.

I will report new developments to you by telephone Monday afternoon. In the meantime, may I thank you for your brilliant diplomacy and publicity in Washington.

Cordially yours,

Louis Gibarti
5/24/37

Louis Giberti,
Room 301,
20 Vesey St.,
New York City.

Dear Louis:

Hereewith is the clipping from the Baltimore Sun which you requested, also
one from this morning's Washington Post. I sincerely trust the figures on the
number of applications stands up.

Also enclosed are the two releases I have given from this office. I am sorry
of the error on the S.S President Roosevelt. I changed from the Harding to the
Roosevelt after talking with the U.S. lines fellow, Schiz, here.

The Catholic drive from Massachusetts is undoubtedly going to spread and
increase. It is incredible that anyone should ascribe such low motives to
this humanitarian effort as are ascribed by Congressman McCormak and his
associates. If anyone has political paranoia it is John McCormak and his crowd.

The more concretely the plans for disposition of the children here can be
set forth, the more favorable will be the reaction generally. Such concreteness
should be achieved as soon as possible to set at rest the doubts as to the
genuineness of the whole enterprise.

Glad the financial aspects of the program are moving along. It seems
certain that this should move those with an excess of this world's goods if anything
will.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. Also enclosed is a copy of the letter from the lady in Warrenton, Virginia.
If it is at all possible to comply with her request, I hope you do so. She
would obviously give the child the most complete sort of opportunities. I have
written to her that I have sent her application on to you, so please have
someone acknowledge it in reasonable time.
May 27, 1937

Mrs. Henri de Heller
Warrenton, Virginia

My dear Mrs. de Heller:

Your generous request for the opportunity of assuming responsibility for one of the Basque refugee children upon their arrival here was at our home last night when I returned from the office. I have forwarded the request to Dr. Frank Bohn at the New York office — Room 301, 80 Vesey Street. You may have noticed in the Washington Post of yesterday that over 7,700 applications for care of the children from private individuals and camps have already been received.

The opportunity which your note implies seems, however, so particularly fine a one that I have urged the New York headquarters to make a special effort to accede to your request.

Until the children actually are landed on French soil — which ought to be today — we will not be able to be sure as to their composition in age groups. Our preliminary information is that a majority of them are likely to be in the older age groups, namely, from twelve to sixteen. Nor are we entirely certain at this stage that there may not be some hitch in the granting of visas. We do not expect any trouble in this regard, nor do we expect the Bureau of Immigration of the Department of Labor (which is in charge of admissions) to raise any serious obstacles to the accomplishment of the humanitarian enterprise supported by financial contributions from various wealthy people along the Atlantic Seaboard.

Incredible as it appears to me, and incredible as, I am sure, it must appear to you, certain elements in the Catholic church in this country led by Cardinal O'Connell and Congressman John McCormack of Boston are doing all they can to prevent the carrying out of this effort undertaken by the American Board of Governors for the Basque refugee children. The contention of Cardinal O'Connell and the Congressman is that these children are being brought over here for political purposes. The charge is made that Congresswoman Caroline O'Day, President-Emeritus Mary E. Woolley of Mount Holyoke College, Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard College, Professor James T. Shotwell of Columbia University, Albert Einstein and other Members of the Board are
a mere "front" for radical persons interested in bringing the children here to parade as victims of Franco's Fascist terror.

Knowing most of the Board of Governors as I do and knowing Dr. Frank Bohn, the Secretary, I can state without any equivocation that the motives back of this undertaking are purely humanitarian. The idea of parading these children in any manner whatever for propaganda purposes is entirely foreign to our plans or purposes.

The children will be accompanied by a group of Basque Catholic priests and very probably be some nuns. We are undertaking the plan at the request of the Basque Government whose delegation attached to the Spanish Embassy in Paris is in charge of arrangements on that side of the Atlantic. The Basque Government, of course, expects and desires the return of the children to their native land when the tragic conflict in Spain is over.

You will probably hear from the New York headquarters in response to your application, but I shall personally keep you informed of developments in our plans and the probabilities of being able to obtain a Basque boy approximately of the age of your own son.

May I express to you my deep appreciation of the generous offer you have made.

Yours sincerely,

Gardner Jackson

P.S. Present tentative plans call for the departure of the children on the U. S. liner President Harding, from Havre, bringing them to these shores about June 10.
ARRIVAL FIRST SIXTY BY SPECIAL LAUNCH STJEANDELUZ CONFIRMED
STOP NAMES WILL BE FILED WITH CONSULATE GENERAL PARIS STOP
PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY OUTCOME CONVERSATION WITH MRS
PERKINS=
=GIBARTI.

Telephone Your Telegrams to Postal Telegraph
American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children
20 Vesey Street Suite 301 Barclay 7-4162 New York City

Advisory Board
ALBERT EINSTEIN
VIRGINIA C. GILDERSLIEVE
HON. CAROLINE O'DAY
JAMES T. SHOTWELL
MARY E. WOOLLEY

DR. FRANK BOHN
Secretary
GARDNER JACKSON
Washington Representative

June 4, 1937

Mr. Gardner Jackson
907 15 Street N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gardner,

Please find enclosed a copy of the letter we have sent to Mrs. Caroline O'Day. We are glad to know that the Secretary of Labor will be here in New York and we would be very grateful if you could ascertain tentatively the time of the appointment, since we shall have to hold some important members of our delegation in readiness.

I have sent a cable concerning the application today and will let you know about the reply as early as possible.

Our committee has been joined by Dorothy Thompson, Miss Frankfurter, Dr. John L. Elliot of the Ethical Culture Society, and Mrs. William Brown Maloney of the Herald Tribune. I am very confident that we shall have some other outstanding public leaders within the next 48 hours. We have made plans to have Mrs. Thomas W. Lamont as treasurer.

In the meantime please read the letter to Mrs. O'Day and our memorandum—which, of course, is not in final shape. We shall consult Miss Mary Simkhovitch on it and shall draft it by the beginning of next week.

Very sincerely yours,

Louis Gibarti

Enc. (3)
The American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children is planning to take care of 500 Basque Refugee Children in the United States. This action has been taken at the request of the Duchess of Atholl, a member of the British Relief for Spain and a member of its International Coordinating Group. These children will be evacuated from the war zone in that part of the Basque country which is suffering most severely from bombardment and air raids. Their sojourn in the United States will be only temporary and will help greatly to relieve the strain on agencies in England, France and other European countries, which have already been taxed to the limit.

The agreement with the Basque Government includes the following provisions:

A. That only orphans or children whose parents have requested that they be removed from the actual dangers of the war zone shall be included in the transport.

B. That they shall be brought to the United States only at the expressed wish of their parents or guardians.

C. That the children shall return to their homeland whenever conditions will permit, and shall be reunited with their families. Special care will be taken to establish and preserve the identity of the children in order to assure their repatriation.

D. We attach to our memorandum a statement of the Duchess of Atholl concerning the need of the American participation in emergency relief to the Basque children.

E. That suitable arrangements shall be made for transportation, supervision, education, and healthy environment.

F. That a sufficient number of Basque Catholic priests shall accompany the children for their religious education.

The first contingent will consist of 50 children, due to arrive in the United States, June 10th. Other transports will follow as soon as facilities will permit.

Upon arrival, the children shall be received by a Commission composed of teachers, social workers, and doctors, which shall after proper examination, supervise the distribution of them, (a) to private families, (b) in groups of ten to twenty-five to camps. (A unified children's home will be created if means permit.) All prospective homes for the children will be investigated by trained social workers. The home environment of the children and religious affiliation will be taken into consideration in selecting suitable accommodations.
The Board of Guardians is aided in its work by the following sub-commissions:

A. Social Workers Commission, elected at the proposal of Dr. Kingsbury at the Indianapolis convention of social workers.

B. Teachers Commission, headed by Prof. Bradley of New York University.

C. Pediatricians Commission.

D. Members of the Institute of Psychology of Columbia University have offered their services in adjusting the children to their new environment.

Affidavits guaranteeing all expenses incurred during the stay of the children will be submitted to the Department of Labor by organisations and individuals interested.

All expenses in connection with transportation are to be underwritten by interested individuals.

This undertaking is motivated by the desire of the Board of Guardians to bring about American participation in a humanitarian effort in which all the democratic nations of Europe are joined.

In order to facilitate this work and make it possible to guarantee the conditions which have been laid down by both the Basque Government and our own government, the American Board of Guardians must have a minimum of $12,000 within the next few days. The whole scheme of bringing the 500 in, will of course, require an additional sum reaching $50,000. Any contributions, large or small, will be welcomed at the office of the American Board of Guardians, 20 Vesey Street. In view of the utmost importance of this humanitarian work, we appeal to the sympathies of the American people for these suffering children.
Copy of Cable

GW  Hq  OS1  Paris 22  1707

MAY 31  1937

AMERICAN BOARD OF GUARDIANS

DR FRANK ROHN  EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

20 VESSEY STREET  NEW YORK  N Y

GRANTING OF TEMPORARY HAVEN TO BASQUE REFUGEE CHILDREN BY UNITED STATES EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT STOP NOT ONLY WILL YOUR ACTION GIVE INSPIRATION TO US AND TO OTHER NATIONS TO JOIN IN OUR EFFORTS BUT IT WILL HELP US TO MAKE PLACE IN THE OVERCROWDED CAMPS FOR NEW REFUGEES DESPERATELY ASKING FOR RESCUE FROM SOME OF MILITARY OPERATIONS STOP COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND FRENCH AND BRITISH PHILANTHROPISTS ARE GRATIFIED TO LEARN OF YOUR OFFER AND STRESS NECESSITY FOR YOUR TAKING GREATEST POSSIBLE SHARE IN OUR ACTIVITY

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL
TO: The Secretary
FROM: Miss Lenroot
SUBJECT: Proposals to Bring 500 Basque Children to the United States.

May 24, 1937.

Just before Miss Abbott sailed we brought to my attention an exchange of telegrams between her and Dr. Frank Bohn, 20 Vesey Street, New York City, with reference to a proposal of the American Board of Guardians for Basque Refuge Children, to bring children and their mothers to the United States for a temporary period. Dr. Bohn asked Miss Abbott to serve on a committee arranging to bring the children over. In reply Miss Abbott wired as follows:

"In my opinion extremely unwise to bring Basque children to United States since reunification with parents in their own homes must be final objective. This can be more easily accomplished if not taken from Europe and children would be happier in more familiar environment. Transportation is a fearful sentence for them. Certainly sacrifice of welfare of children not necessary to express our condemnation of the atrocious bombardment. Have you consulted Children's Bureau and Immigration Bureau about plan."

Miss Abbott felt very strongly that this proposal should not be promoted, as it would be contrary to all standards of child care to bring the children over here so far from their relatives, and that it would be much better to work out some means of aiding them in France.
June 3, 1937

Hon. Caroline O'Day  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. O'Day,

Enclosed please find the copy of a memorandum which a delegation will file on behalf of our Board with the Secretary of Labor, Miss Frances Perkins. It appears that she is to be in New York at the beginning of next week and will get in touch with our office in order to give a hearing to the secretary and different members of our committee. I would like to call your attention, in this connection, to the campaign which is being carried on from certain sources against our enterprise.

Under the sponsorship of the Duchess of Atholl, 4,000 children have been taken to England, 3,000 to France, 500 to Belgium, 500 to Holland, and 500 to Mexico. No question was raised by social welfare agencies of these countries as to the advisability of the removal of the children from the Basque Autonomous Republic. It seems, however, that this question is persistently raised by various newspapers and public leaders in Massachusetts. I therefore ask you to consider a statement of the Duchess of Atholl, which you will also find enclosed, outlining the necessity for American participation in this humanitarian enterprise.

It is our intention to give homes to these children and secure good living conditions and recreational and educational facilities for them, during the Spanish civil war, we therefore have taken all care in order to establish the necessary safeguards, both as far as seeking the cooperation and advice of the Children's Bureau of the Labor Department.

The identity of the children, the name and address of the parents, are clearly established and registration is guaranteed by the Basque government, as well as by the fact that all of the young refugees will be in possession of a return ticket.
to Europe. Under these conditions it is our feeling that the objections are not justified. They are inspired mainly by the desire to keep the children out and at the same time to rule out American participation of any consequence in this important enterprise.

We would like to ask you, therefore, to use all your influence in governmental departments, if possible, with Mrs. Roosevelt, toward the end that our arrangements shall be allowed to be completed, that we shall not be forced to go back on our pledge given, so to say, before the public opinion of the whole civilized world to alleviate the Basque emergency by American endeavor.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Frank Bohn
Secretary

FBsS
Enc (2)
500 Little Basque Refugees
Coming to U.S.A.

OFFERS U.S. HAVEN
To 5,000 BASQUES

Group Ready to Care for Refugee Children — 500 Sail
From Bilbao Tomorrow

In a cablegram to the Basque Government, the American Board of
Guardians for Basque Refugee Children today offered to bring
here and care for 5,000 children from the besieged Bilbao
area. Arrangements already have been
made to evacuate 500 children to-
morrow in the chartered French
liner Saina.

It is planned to disembark the
group at St. Jean de Luz, on the
French coast, take them north to
Paris by rail and put them aboard the Presi-
dent Harding at Havre June 15 for
the trip to America.

Under this plan the first group
would arrive here June 19.

Older children would be placed
in homes of American sympathizers.
The younger children, under the
tutelage of Basque Catholic priests
who are accompanying them, would
be placed as a group in a large
nursery home to be established in
New York City.

The board includes Dean Virginia Gildersleeve
of Barnard College, Professor James T. Shotwell of
Columbia University, Mary E. Woolley, president emeritus
of Mount Holyoke College, and Representative Carolyn O'Day of
New York.

500 Children

Little Basque Victims to Be Brought Here

Five hundred refugee children
rescued from the ravaged Basque
territory will be brought to the
United States within the next few
weeks by the committee for Ger-
man-American relief for Spain. It
was announced by Dr. Jacob An-
labrand, chairman of the committee.

"To reduce the horrors of Ger-
many and the humanitarian tradi-
tion of the German people,
destroyed by Hitler's advent,
we turned to our Basque
brothers," Dr. Amlabrand stated. "The Amer-
ican Board of Guardians for
Basque Refugees Children, who
made the Ascanio agreement,
are making these arrange-
ments."

Applications are being made to
the State Department for a collec-
tive visa.

Washington May Admit 500 Basque Children
On Visitors' Visas Granting Six-Month Stays

WASHINGTON, May 21—Temporary asylum in the United
States would be afforded 500 Basque children from Bilbao, Spain,
under plans being worked out by the American Board of Guardians for
Basque Refugees Children of New York, and now under consideration
by the State Department.

While no final conclusion has
been reached, it was learned today
that the department intends to take
a humanitarian view of the ques-
tion. The hope is entertained that
the department will permit the ad-
mission of the refugees as tempo-
rary visitors on definite assurance
from interested persons in this
country that they will not become
public charges.

Announcement of the plan was
made by Gardner Jackson, Wash-
ington representative of the board.
While Secretary Hull did not con-
firm it, information was obtained
that the question has been under
serious consideration in the depart-
ment for two days.

Under the quota restrictions
of the Immigration Law only 250 Span-
iards may be admitted into the
country annually as immigrants
and this has been utilized. How-
ever, some discretion is permitted
in the granting of visas for visitors
on a basis of a six-month stay, with
opportunity for extensions. There
is said to be no reason why, if an
arrangement is worked out in the
present case, more child refugees
from Spain might not be admitted
thereafter as circumstances war-
ranted.

Mr. Jackson announced that as-
surance had been received from
State Department officials that no
echafadet would be placed in the
way of speedy action on an appli-
cation for visas for the Basque
children that will be filed. "With
the nearest available United States
Consul in Bilbao,"

The board is chartering the
French liner Saina to bring the
children to this country. Five
Basque priests will be in charge
of the children on route, as their
parents have either been killed or are
at the front.

American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children
20 Vesey Street
Suite 301  BAclav 7-4162
New York City
Women Slain in Streets
As German-Made Planes
Of Rebels Strafe Bilbao

TRIUNE

NEW YORK POST.

BILBAO

GE TS

MESSAGE FROM THE FASCISTS

SHIP TAKES ABOARD
4,000 BILBAO GIRLS

New York Post, May 30.—The
parents of 4,000 Basque girls from
2 to 15 years old waved tearful fare-
wells tonight as the children em-
arked on the Spanish liner Habana,
due to sail at dawn for Southampton,
England, as the Insurgent lines daily
draw closer around Bilbao.

The children, each of whom wore
on her chest a cardboard placard,
on which was written "Inglaterra" (England) and her identification
number, seemed more interested in
the voyage ahead and arrival in a
strange country than in leave-tak-
ing.

Rain fell in torrents, bringing the
remark, "Lovely weather; no avia-
tion."

N.Y. Eve. Journal
5/21/37

Basque Children
to Come Here

The American board of guardian-
s for Basque refugee children is
chartering the French liner Bimah
to hasten the evacuation of Bilbao
and the transport of 500 Basque
children to be brought to this coun-
try, Dr. Frank Bohn, general sec-
retary, announced today at the
offices of the board at 26 Vesey St.

"Since the Armenian massacres
in the wake of the World War the
civilized world has not been con-
fronted with an emergency of similar magnitude," said Dr.
Bohn.

"Thousands of children, women, and unprotec-
ted civilians, are driven along the
highways of the Basque autono-
umous republic by merciless
artillery barrages and foreign
fighters' bombs devastating their
home cities, according to a cable
received today by the organiza-
tion from President Jose Antonio
Mr. Gardiner Jackson,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you as the representative of the Guardians of Refuge Children, to say that we would be very much interested in having our Refuge child placed in your home for as long a period as necessary. We will be very glad to give any information you may desire regarding our circumstances etc. There are 3 children in our family.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Elizabeth M. Donnell
Mr. Gardner Jackson,
907-15th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gardner:

Please find enclosed our proposed telegram to the President. We would be glad if you would advise us as to whether we might use your signature and that of Mrs. Caroline O'Day under this document.

At the same time, you will find a copy of a telegram I have received in reply to my inquiry concerning application. You are familiar with the outcome of the conferences with the Secretary of Labor here in New York. I am confident that Dr. Frank Bohn will give you more details tomorrow.

I implore you to make every effort to get Michaelson and Corcoran to see the President on the issue. Mrs. O'Day should also be asked to make another effort.

I include a copy of our two memoranda stating our intentions and plans, tentatively.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

LG/s

Encl.
May 31

AMERICAN BOARD OF GUARDIANS
DR. FRANK BORN    EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
80 VESEY STREET   NEW YORK   NY

GRANTING OF TEMPORARY HAVEN TO BASQUE REFUGEE CHILDREN BY
UNITED STATES EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT STOP NOT ONLY WILL YOUR
ACTION GIVE INSPIRATION TO US AND TO OTHER NATIONS TO JOIN IN
OUR EFFORTS BUT IT WILL HELP US TO MAKE PLACE IN THE OVERCROWDED
CAMPS FOR NEW REFUGEES DESPERATELY ASKING FOR RESCUE FROM ZONE OF
MILITARY OPERATIONS STOP COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND FRENCH AND
BRITISH PHILANTHROPISTS ARE GRATIFIED TO LEARN OF YOUR OFFER
AND STRESS NECESSITY FOR YOUR TAKING GREATEST POSSIBLE SHARE
IN OUR ACTIVITY

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL
The American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children is planning to take care of 500 Basque Refugee Children in the United States. This action has been taken at the request of the Duchess of Atholl, a member of the British Relief for Spain and a member of its International Coordinating Group. These children will be evacuated from the war zone in that part of the Basque country which is suffering most severely from bombardment and air raids. Their sojourn in the United States will be only temporary and will help greatly to relieve the strain on agencies in England, France and other European countries, which have already been taxed to the limit.

The agreement with the Basque Government includes the following provisions:

A. That only orphans or children whose parents have requested that they be removed from the actual dangers of the war zone shall be included in the transport.

B. That they shall be brought to the United States only at the expressed wish of their parents or guardians.

C. That the children shall return to their homeland whenever conditions will permit, and shall be reunited with their families. Special care will be taken to establish and preserve the identity of the children in order to assure their repatriation.

D. We attach to our memorandum a statement of the Duchess of Atholl concerning the need of the American participation in emergency relief to the Basque children.

E. That suitable arrangements shall be made for transportation, supervision, education, and healthy environment.

F. That a sufficient number of Basque Catholic priests shall accompany the children for their religious education.

The first contingent would consist of 60 children, due to arrive in the United States, June 10th. Other transports will follow as soon as facilities will permit.

Upon arrival, the children shall be received by a Commission composed of teachers, social workers, and doctors, which shall after proper examination, supervise the distribution of them, (a) to private families, (b) in groups of ten to twenty-five to camps. (A unified children's home will be created if means permit.) All prospective homes for the children will be investigated by trained social workers. The home environment of the children and religious affiliation will be taken into consideration in selecting suitable accommodations.
The Board of Guardians is aided in its work by the following sub-commissions:

A. Social Workers Commission. (Professor Lund)

B. Teachers Commission, headed by Prof. Bradley of New York University.

C. Pediatricians Commission. (Dr. Harry Makler)

D. Members of the Institute of Psychology of Columbia University have offered their services in adjusting the children to their new environment. (Prof. Gardner Murphy)

Affidavits guaranteeing all expenses incurred during the stay of the children will be submitted to the Department of Labor by organizations and individuals interested.

All expenses in connection with transportation are to be underwritten by interested individuals.

This undertaking is motivated by the desire of the Board of Guardians to bring about American participation in a humanitarian effort in which all the democratic nations of Europe are joined.

In order to facilitate this work and make it possible to guarantee the conditions which have been laid down by both the Basque Government and our own government, the American Board of Guardians must have a minimum of $12,000 within the next few days. The whole scheme of bringing the 990 in, will of course, require an additional sum reaching $30,000. Any contributions, large or small, will be welcomed at the offices of the American Board of Guardians, 20 Vesey Street. In view of the utmost importance of this humanitarian work, we appeal to the sympathies of the American people for these suffering children.
AMERICAN BOARD OF GUARDIANS
20 VESEY STREET - NYC

Saw consulate general routine applications necessitates presence children Paris stop could undertake transportation Paris from St. Jean de Luz only if visa issue favorably decided Washington since discomfort of children and heavy expenses involved if return to St. Jean necessary please advise

(signed) COORDINATION COMMITTEE
PARIS
MEMORANDUM #2 CONCERNING THE BASQUE REFUGEE CHILDREN

In the public discussion as well as in contacts with leading social workers and educators of the country, certain questions were raised to our Board concerning the plan to bring here 500 children.

1. The actual need of the removal of these children was questioned.

To this question, our reply is that it is evidently necessary to remove children and defenseless non-combatant civilians from the zone of military operations. France has given haven to more than 84,760 so far; England to 4,000; Belgium to 500; and Mexico to 500. Smaller contingents were sent to other states. The necessity of the removal and the existence of the emergency was recognized everywhere. Under the existing conditions, the facilities of the receiving states are heavily taxed. Camps are overcrowded. It is conceded that it will sufficiently improve within the next three months. Constant influx of new refugees necessitated the broad participation of other nations in this campaign. A statement of the Duchess of Atholl, which we attach hereto, gives an idea of the importance of the American participation in this particular campaign.

2. Another question is the identity of the children.

Since the United States would admit the children as temporary visitors on a non-quota basis, the possibility of repatriation must be kept open. We have the guarantee of the Basque Government and also of the official Spanish representative in the United States that the identity of the children will be carefully established and safeguarded. The parents and their addresses are clearly stated in the application for passports. The Board of Guardians, with the backing of the competent Spanish authorities abroad and in this country, is prepared to guarantee the identity of the children under our care.

The Board also offers return tickets to cover the children.

As to the question of how far the present government of Spain is able to give an unconditional guarantee concerning repatriation the reply is:

That that government is the only one which has been recognized by the United States and the only responsible factor. It should also be mentioned that our endeavors are strictly non-political and will not antagonize anybody generally interested in the welfare of the children.

Another important question from the viewpoint of entrance, is the reasonable guarantee that the children will not become public charges in America.

As to this requirement, the Board of Guardians is prepared to file with the Department of Labor, prior to the arrival of any convoy, affidavit made by organizations and individuals pledging the sum of $25.00 per month for every child for a period of six months to one year.
As to the emotional and other hardships involved by the separation from the parents, ocean transportation and foreign language, encountered by the children:

Our attitude is that some of these hardships are inevitable under the present emergency and are infinitely less than those to which they would be subjected if they would remain on Basque territory or even in France or other countries, with overcrowded camps and momentarily insufficient resources. On the other hand, our arrangements, which include the complete collaboration of all Basque and Spanish organizations of this country as well as such scientific approach to the problem as proposed by the Department of Psychology of Columbia University, would eliminate all difficulties which can be brought under human control.

as well as the active participation of a social worker’s commission, a teachers’ commission and a pediatricians’ commission,
New York, June 3, 1937.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

Answering the appeal of the Duchess of Atholl who organized removal of

6,792 Basque refugee children to France 4,000 to England 500 to Belgium

500 to Holland and 500 to Mexico the American Board of Guardians for

Basque refugee children has undertaken to bring 500 children to United

States to be cared for here for duration of Civil War. They will

be accompanied by Basque Catholic priests and will be maintained

here by responsible organizations which solicit the advice and cooperation

of the Federal Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor. This

action is strictly non-political. Being humanitarian in the broadest

sense it is in line with the best traditions of our country which always in

the past has given liberal assistance to victims of catastrophes throughout

the world. World public opinion looks to you, Mr. President

to enable American generosity to find its logical expression in this

emergency. Stop other governments have taken emergency measures but

European accommodations for refugees are already overtaxed. Stop the

situation is critical. Stop Bilbao suburbs are in flames. Stop every

day's delay may cost lives. Stop we respectfully urge you

Mr. President to intercede on behalf of these unfortunate children

thus making possible American participation in this great work of mercy.
New York, June 8, 1937.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House
Washington, D. C.

ANSWERING THE APPEAL OF THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL WHO ORGANIZED REMOVAL OF 6,792 BASQUE REFUGEE CHILDREN TO FRANCE 4000 TO ENGLAND 500 TO BELGIUM 500 TO HOLLAND AND 500 TO MEXICO THE AMERICAN BOARD OF GUARDIANS FOR BASQUE REFUGEE CHILDREN HAS UNDERTAKEN TO BRING 500 CHILDREN TO UNITED STATES TO BE CARED FOR HERE FOR DURATION OF CIVIL WAR. THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY BASQUE CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND WILL BE MAINTAINED HERE BY RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SOLICIT THE ADVICE AND COOPERATION OF THE FEDERAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. THIS ACTION IS STRICTLY NON-POLITICAL. BEING HUMANITARIAN IN THE BROADEST SENSE IT IS IN LINE WITH THE BEST TRADITIONS OF OUR COUNTRY WHICH ALWAYS IN THE PAST HAS GIVEN LIBERAL ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF CATASTROPHES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WORLD PUBLIC OPINION LOOKS TO YOU MR. PRESIDENT TO ENABLE AMERICAN GENEROSITY TO FIND ITS LOGICAL EXPRESSION IN THIS EMERGENCY. OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE TAKEN EMERGENCY MEASURES BUT EUROPEAN ACCOMMODATIONS FOR REFUGEES ARE ALREADY OVERTAXED. THE SITUATION IS CRITICAL. BILBAO SUBURBS ARE IN FLAMES. EVERY DAY'S DELAY MAY COST LIVES. WE RESPECTFULLY URGING YOU MR. PRESIDENT TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF THESE UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN THUS MAKING POSSIBLE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THIS GREAT WORK OF MERCY.
Dear Secretary,

You may have heard of the recent incidents involving the recall of a certain product from the market. It is important to note that the recall was due to a safety precaution and that the company involved has taken immediate action to address the issue.

While there are no immediate concerns for our department, I wanted to inform you of the importance of staying informed and vigilant in such situations. It is crucial to ensure that all regulations are followed and that the actions taken are in the best interest of the public.

I remain available to discuss any further actions that may be necessary.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

6/21
Pro. Basque Gardner Jackson
The American Board of Guardians for Basque Children
Washington
Susan Rey D.C.
Boston June 9th 1937

My dear Abein sympathizer

Let Father Flanagan take

the Basque children to

Ireland it is much

nearer than U. States.

How about taking care

care of the children

of the miners in the

Kentucky Coal Field?

they are citizens of the

United States

Charity begins at

time - you are a

poster for cheap

advertising with

other persons money

There are numbers of

children to keep at home
June 12, 1937

Mr. Gardner Jackson
905-907 15 Street N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gardner,

Please find enclosed some of the telegrams which have been sent by friends and supporters of our committee to the President and the Secretary of State respectively.

As you are aware from our telephone conversation of today, we saw Mrs. O'Day yesterday at the Metropolitan Club and she has promised to see on our behalf Mrs. Roosevelt and the President.

In further conversations with Miss Martha Gelhorn, we have agreed that it would be extremely useful if you could prevail upon John L. Lewis to call up the Department of Labor in order to urge the Secretary to admit the children. At the same time, after reading the copy of our letter to Senator Wagner, you could talk over our problem with him. I have no doubt that a similar intervention could be secured from Senators Bone, Schwellenbach, La Follette, Norris and Nye. It would be very important also if Tom Corcoran would write to the President and if Charlie Michaelson, during his conversations with the President, would occasionally drop a word about these children.

We will take care of the Labor end in New York by the efforts of Commissioner Kern and Walter Gelhorn and Rose Schneidermann of the Women's Trade Union League. At the same time please find enclosed a new draft memorandum which will be filed with the Secretary of Labor after your possible suggestions for changes, with the signatures of Dr. Bohn, Mary Simkhovitch, Miss Helen Hall (Mrs. Paul Kellogg), and Bill Dodd.
Please read the letter to the Catholic Charities with great care. We won't send it out until we receive your O.K.

Very cordially yours,

Louis Gibarti

P.S. We are holding the Catholic letter and memorandum to The Secy of State untilMonday, The latter so That Hall o Sinkhowich can OR it, and The former because it needs to be worked on some more. They will go out special delivery Monday a.m. -

K: Meredith
SECRETARY OF STATE CORDELL HULL
STATE DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

Rumors are being spread in New York that your department refuses asylum in America to Basque children evacuated from Bilbao STOP May I respectfully urge that you take earliest opportunity to deny these rumors STOP It is vital to self-respect of United States citizens that not even in idle talk should this democracy be pictured as only civilized country in Western world should put itself in so shameful a position STOP I realize certain U.S. organizations are not above opposing rescue of these children for fear appearance in America of Catholic refugees escaping from fascists guns might expose falsehood of widely disseminated contention that Franco and his Nazi and fascist allies are patriotically engaged in protecting Spanish people against anarchists and communists STOP But sure such organizations cannot influence decision of a nation dedicated to ideals of political and human freedom.

(signed) ARCHIBALD HAGLEY
Editor, FORTUNE Magazine
JUNE 8, 1937

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU AND THE PRESIDENT WILL DECIDE IN FAVOR OF THE MOVE TO PROVIDE AN AMERICAN SANCTUARY FOR THE BASQUE CHILDREN THAT INNOCENT VICTIMS OF WAR OR OPPRESSION MAY TURN TO THIS COUNTRY FOR RELIEF AS THEY HAVE DONE SO OFTEN IN THE PAST.

(signed) RICHARD STORRS CHILDS
Editor, PHOTO-HISTORY

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MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 8, 1937

I UNDERSTAND MISS PERKINS HAS ASKED YOU AND THE PRESIDENT TO DECIDE WHETHER THE CHILDREN OF THE BASQUES IN SPAIN MAY BE GIVEN A TEMPORARY HOME IN AMERICA. I HOPED YOUR ANSWER WILL BE YES, AND THAT THIS COUNTRY WILL JOIN FRANCE AND ENGLAND IN GIVING THESE SHOCKED KIDS A CHANCE FOR FULL RECOVERY.

(signed) LOUIS P. BIRK, EDITOR
MODERN AGE BOOKS, INC.
155 EAST 44TH STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

.................................................................

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT
WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

I JOIN WITH OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS IN URGING THAT THE UNITED STATES LIVE UP TO ITS TRADITION AS A GREAT HUMANITARIAN NATION BY FURTHERING THE PROPOSAL BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF GUARDIANS TO AID A SMALL GROUP OF THE UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY FOR TEMPORARY REFUGE.

(signed) FREDERICK L. GUGGENHEIMER
Executive Director
City Affairs Committee of
New York
Presdent Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  

In the interest of a humanitarian purpose transcendng any national boundaries and involving international cooperation thus contributing toward world peace I hope the project of the American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children for evacuating children from cities under fire and caring for them in this country may be facilitated stop I understand the residence of the children here will be temporary and that all will be guaranteed against becoming public charges.  

(signed) BARBARA S. BURKE, Ph.D.  

**************

President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  

The undersigned favor the project of the American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children for evacuating children from cities under fire and caring for them temporarily in this country only under the following conditions (first) number to be limited to five hundred of Basque origin to be admitted on tourist visa only (second) to be inspected by Immigration Service before sailing and the socially inadequate rejected (third) bonds to be placed with government for each child to cover expense involved in caring for him here and in returning him to Europe.  

(signed) Charles B. Davenport  
H. H. Laughlin  
A. M. Banta  
Morris Steggerda
Mr. Gardner Jackson,
505a Insurance Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Jackson,

In the hope that the application for the admittance of several hundred Basque children to this country will be approved by the State department, my husband and I wish to file a request for the adoption of one of them.

You are familiar with my work on behalf of Spanish Democracy, as Secretary to the American Friends of Spanish Democracy, in Washington. We have both lived in Spain, and know well the fine qualities of the Basque race. We have no children of our own, and our aim would be to give this child every advantage in education and home life. Any assurances that are needed as to our financial ability to support a child we shall be glad to furnish.

To be specific, we would like to have a boy of about five or six years of age, although this is not mandatory; we should be willing to consider one of another age that might be recommended to us.

If the children are admitted, we shall be glad to hear what the conditions of such an adoption would be. Meanwhile, please put our application on file.

Yours sincerely,
June 12, 1937

Senator Robert Wagner
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Senator,

We learn from Miss Martha Gelhorn of the great interest you have taken in our efforts to bring here 500 Basque refugee children from Bilbao and other towns--Guernica and Burgos--which have been destroyed during the recent military operations in the Autonomous Basque Republic. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks for everything you have done to help us obtain visas for the children.

As you are aware from the press, the American Board of Guardians has undertaken to participate under the flag of American humanitarian tradition, in an effort of rescue supported by our sister democracies in Western Europe. France has taken more than 8,000, England 4,000, Belgium, Holland and Mexico 500 respectively of the innocent little refugees.

The Duchess of Atholl, who is heading the Coordination Committee in charge of this work, has informed us today that the evacuation of non-combatant population, and mainly children, is going on at the rate of 4,000 a week, and is heavily taxing all facilities made available in France, England and other countries. The American participation, therefore, is highly important and desirable. Furthermore, it is only fitting that our nation, dedicated to the ideas of political and human freedom, should give its utmost support to this significant relief work.

We therefore beg to submit to you the enclosed information, including a cable from the Duchess of Atholl and some other communications, in order to inform you about our plans. We ask you to use all your influence to the end that the democratic and humanitarian tradition of the people and the government of the United States shall not be interfered
with by any effort to block, from a political viewpoint, an enterprise which is strictly non-political and which is prepared to furnish all guarantees to this effect.

We would be very grateful if you could call the attention of other legislators to our particular problem and enlist their help in deciding the fate of these youngsters by securing a favorable attitude in the Department of Labor.

Very sincerely yours,

William E. Dodd, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
Dr. Algerman Blank,
William Dodd, Esq.,
The American Board of Guardians for the Basque Refugee Children.
Room 301, 20 Vesey St.,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Primarily to keep the record straight I wish to repeat in black and white the
conviction I expressed over the telephone that the National Catholic Welfare
Conference should be invited to participate in the humanitarian enterprise for
the Basque children as members of the Board of Guardians. After my two
conversations yesterday with Monsignor Michael J. Ready, general secretary of the
Conference, I feel confident that such an invitation will be entertained with the
serious consideration it deserves. I do not see how Monsignor Ready and his
associates can find fault with the disinterestedness and fairness of your plans in
all their aspects - physical welfare, education, health - when the facts as
they have been presented to me are formally laid before him.

In connection with such an invitation I should like it understood, at least from
my point of view, that the enlisting of this humanitarian appeal from the
independent judgment of the Board and not from any pleasure brought by certain
elements within the Catholic Church nor from an appeal of any nature to
Government officials that the refugee children will not be included in any
in this country unless the Catholic welfare agency takes part in the
enterprise. That is not a policy of our form of government - the setting up of
rules without preceding government action in advance - that I cannot
believe any reasonable official of the Government would enforce as a
fundamental proposition. The only requirements that we are met by which we
should be guided for this humanitarian undertaking are the requirements laid down
by the Basque Government and by the parents of guardians of the children. By
understanding in that at least five Basque Catholic priests will accompany the
refugees. It is my further understanding that among the members of the Board
there are one or two Catholics.

I set forth these brief observations so that you may have no doubt about
my views as your Washington representative. I again stress that the experience
of Monsignor Ready and his associates in child welfare activities should make
their advice and aid as members of the Board of great value. And I also
repeat that I cannot see how they can fail to respond to your invitation
accompanied by a full outlining of all the facts surrounding this attempt to
do our part in America to help save some of the Basque children from being
brushed or machine-gunned or shelled to death by the forces of Fascist General
Primo.

Yours sincerely,
Copy of telegram

BORDEAUX, June 13th.

AMERICAN BOARD OF GUARDIANS
20 VESSEY STREET NEW YORK NY

TREMENDOUS EMERGENCY DEVELOPING IN CONNECTION WITH REFUGEE CHILDREN STOP CRITICAL CONDITIONS NEAR BILBAO DRIVE THOUSANDS OF BASQUE REFUGEES TO SOUTHERN FRANCE CAMPS IN ST JEAN DE LUZ ALREADY OVERCROWDED STOP SECURE IMMEDIATELY VISA FOR 500 STOP IT WOULD POSITIVELY HELP THANKS

SIMON
June 14, 1937

Hon. Frances Perkins
Secretary of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madame Secretary:

In accordance with the interview granted by you to four members of the board of guardians in New York City, we hereby respectfully submit a memorandum supplementing the first statement filed with you at that time.

Since that conversation, as you are aware from the press, the emergency prevailing among the non-combatant civilians of the French territory has seriously increased. During the last twenty-four hours, 7,610 child refugees have arrived in St. Jean de Luz, where camps and other accommodations were already over-crowded.

As may be easily ascertained from United States consular reports, no question can be raised as to the advisability of removing the children to other countries.

In this tragic hour which is giving deep concern to the entire civilized world, we earnestly request that you authorize American participation in this world-wide effort of mercy, thus carrying on the humanitarian tradition of our nation.

Respectfully yours,

William E. Dodd, Jr.
Acting General Secretary
To the Department of Labor:
MEMORANDUM "D", concerning the proposed entry of 500 Basque refugee children to the United States.

Supplementing the initial statement of the Board of Guardians concerning plans to bring 500 Basque refugee children to the United States, we wish to state the following:

1. All measures have been taken in order to assure the Board of the cooperation of competent social service and educational agencies for the maintenance, education, and religious supervision of these children. Our Advisory Board is to be enlarged to include Mrs. Mary Sinkovitch, Miss Helen Hall, and Dr. John Lovejoy Elliot.

A Resident Executive Committee, on which all organizations actively cooperating with us will be represented, has been established. Mrs. Sinkovitch, Miss Hall, and Prof. Harold Land will represent the Social Workers' Committee for Spanish children's relief appointed by the Indianapolis Conference. The Welfare Council of New York City is already participating in our work through its assistant executive director, Mr. Leonard W. Lopez. Our Teachers' Commission referred to in our first memorandum will be represented on the Executive Committee by Prof. Lyman Bradley. The Women's Committee of the Board, of which Miss Donald Ogden Stewart is the chairman, will be represented by Mr. Richard Sierra Childs. The Federated Spanish and Basque Societies of the United States have delegated Mr. J. Alonso and Dr. Valentin Aquirre, Dr. C. Martinez, and Dr. A. Garcia. The Spanish Consul General, Hon. Luis Caras, will represent officially the Spanish governmental agencies of this country.

We feel confident that this Executive Committee, with the aid and advice of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor, would be able to provide the best possible care of the children.

2. The identity of the children will be clearly established in order that they may be repatriated. The Coordinating Committee in Paris and St. Jean de Luz and the Basque Government have agreed to furnish the American consular authorities with passports and full information as to the names, residences, parents or guardians, and local authorities responsible.
3. The necessity of removing the children from France is increasing daily with the growing pressure upon the Basque territory. According to cables received here today and confirmed by Associated Press dispatches from Bordeaux, more than 7,000 children refugees were received in St. Jean de Luz during the last twenty-four hours. The facilities of the countries that have been offering asylum to these unfortunate children have been heavily taxed and their refuge camps are overcrowded. Efforts are constantly being made to bring about the participation of other nations in order to relieve this situation. To date, France has taken 18,000, England, 6,000, and Belgium, Holland, and Mexico, 500 each.

4. The financial obligations of our enterprise have been underwritten to the extent of $25,000. In addition, arrangements have been made to secure for each child entering the United States an affidavit by an organization or individual to the effect that said organization or individual shall be responsible for the maintenance of the child during his residence in this country. The Board also proposes to supply the children with return tickets to assure their repatriation.

In view of the above guarantees and of the humanitarian purpose of the undertaking, we hope that the Department will not require the posting of bonds.

5. The Board considers the participation of official Catholic welfare agencies very important and desirable. In order to secure the cooperation of responsible Catholic societies, we have written to Monsignor Michael J. Ready of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, asking his support.

In conclusion, the American Board of Guardians, on the basis of authorized information received from abroad, reiterates its conviction that, while some hardships are inevitable under the present emergency, those which the children would undergo if they come to America are infinitely less than those which they must suffer if they are to remain either in the Basque country or in the overcrowded European camps. Our arrangements for them, made with the cooperation of the Spanish and Basque organizations in this country, together with experienced social workers and psychologists, will eliminate every unnecessary hardship that science and sympathetic understanding can remove.
The American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children is planning to bring 500 Basque Refugee Children to the United States. This action has been taken at the request of the Duchess of Atholl, head of the British Relief Committee for Spain and chairman of The International Coordinating Committee. These children will be rescued from the war zone in that part of the Basque country which is suffering most severely from bombardment and air raids. Their sojourn in the United States will be only temporary and will help greatly to relieve the strain on agencies in England, France and other European countries, which have already been taxed to capacity.

(We attach to our memorandum a statement of the Duchess of Atholl concerning the need of the American participation in emergency relief to the Basque children.)

The agreement with the Basque Government includes the following provisions:

(a) Only orphans or children whose parents have requested that they be removed from the actual dangers of the war zone shall be included in this group.

(b) They shall be brought to the United States only at the expressed wish of their parents or guardians.

(c) The children shall return to their homeland as soon as conditions permit, and shall be reunited with their families. Special care shall be taken to establish and preserve the identity of the children in order to assure their repatriation.

(d) Suitable arrangements shall be made for transportation, supervision, education, and healthy environment.

(e) A sufficient number of Basque Catholic Priests shall accompany the children for their religious education.

The first contingent would consist of 50 to 100 children to arrive in the United States as early as possible after June 10th. Other contingents will follow as soon as facilities will permit.

Upon arrival, the children shall be received by a Commission composed of teachers, social workers, and physicians which shall after proper examination, supervise the distribution of them, (a) to private homes, (b) in groups of ten to twenty-five to camps. A unified children's home will be created if means permit.) All prospective homes for the children will be investigated by accredited social workers. The home environment and religious affiliation will be taken into consideration in selecting suitable accommodations.

The Board of Guardians is aided in its work by the following sub-commissions:

(a) Social Workers Commission, (Professor Harold Lund)

(b) Teachers Commission, (Prof. Bradley of New York University)

(c) Pediatricians Commission (Dr. Harry Makler)
(d) Members of the Institute of Psychology of Columbia University have offered their services in adjusting the children to their new environment. (Prof. Gardner Murphy)

Affidavits guaranteeing all expenses incurred during the stay of the children will be submitted to the Department of Labor by organizations and individuals interested.

All expenses in connection with transportation are to be underwritten by interested individuals.

The undertaking is motivated by the desire of the Board of Guardians to bring about American participation in a humanitarian effort in which all the democratic nations of Europe are joined.

In order to facilitate this work and make it possible to guarantee the conditions which have been laid down by both the Basque Government and our own government, the American Board of Guardians must have a minimum of $18,000 within the next few days. The whole plan of bringing the 500 in will require an additional sum reaching $80,000.
June 14, 1937

Monsignor Michael J. Ready, Gen. Sec'y
Catholic National Welfare Conference
Washington, D. C.

My dear Monsignor:

The American Board of Guardians, as you are already aware, has undertaken to bring 500 Basque refugee children to the United States for the duration of the Spanish civil strife. This effort is part of a similar undertaking by different nations to bring about aid of strictly non-political character to the unfortunate civilian population of the Autonomous Basque Republic. Thanks to the efforts of the Duchess of Atholl more than 8,000 children have been taken to France, 4,000 to England, and 300 to Belgium, Holland and Mexico, respectively. In most of these countries the Catholic Welfare agencies are generously participating in this work of mercy. We might recall in this connection that the Bishop of Vitoria, according to a release in the New York Times, has commended the Belgian clergy for the care given to the Basque refugee children. Likewise, the Coordinating Committee in Paris has the collaboration of Mrs. Malaterre Sellier, a prominent French Catholic, with whom important French Catholic welfare agencies are acting in concert.

It is the unanimous opinion of our Board that the cooperation of the Catholic National Welfare Conference is essential to the work we hope to accomplish. We have provided that the convoy shall be accompanied by five Basque Catholic priests. Nevertheless, it is the conviction of our Board that the supervision and education of the children from the Catholic viewpoint will not be complete without official Catholic cooperation in the United States.
This decision was reached independently of any pressure or of any possible attitude of Governmental officials, on the question. Our Board is firmly convinced that it is foreign to our form of government to set up religious requirements of any denomination as a prerequisite condition to any charitable or humanitarian action.

It has been our intention, from the very beginning, to ask for your cooperation immediately after a favorable governmental decision had assured the visas for the children and thereby the proper start of our action. It appears, however, that certain groups not in possession of authorized information concerning the character and objectives of our relief work, have cast doubts upon the underlying intentions. We, therefore, are anxious to obtain here and now the same measure of Catholic cooperation granted in other countries which is very essential to our undertaking in the United States.

We are positive that it is in complete accord with the wishes of the Basque Government, whose official cooperation we have, and to whom we will be anxious to report the attitude of the Catholic Welfare agencies concerning their Basque children.

May we therefore suggest that the Catholic National Welfare Conference appoint a delegate to our resident Executive Committee in order to advise us and give full cooperation in all our plans.

Our Executive Committee would be most happy to have your reply on the matter at your earliest convenience in view of the arrival of 7316 children at Saint Jean de Luz today, and generally because of the growing emergency of the non-combatant civilians in the Autonomous Basque Republic.

Very sincerely yours,

William E. Dodd, Jr.
Active General Secretary
American Board of Guardians
June 14, 1937

Monsignor Michael J. Ready, Gen. Sec'y
Catholic National Welfare Conference
Washington, D. C.

My dear Monsignor:

The American Board of Guardians, as you are already aware, has undertaken to bring 500 Basque refugee children to the United States for the duration of the Spanish civil strife. This effort is part of a similar undertaking by different nations to bring about aid of strictly non-political character to the unfortunate civilian population of the Autonomous Basque Republic. Thanks to the efforts of the Duchess of Atholl more than 8,000 children have been taken to France, 4,000 to England, and 500 to Belgium, Holland and Mexico, respectively. In most of these countries the Catholic welfare agencies are generously participating in this work of mercy. We might recall in this connection that the Bishop of Vitoria, according to a release in the New York Times, has commended the Belgian clergy for the care given by them to the Basque refugee children. Likewise, the Coordinating Committee in Paris has the collaboration of Mme. Malaterre Selier, a prominent French Catholic, with whom important French Catholic welfare agencies are acting in concert.

It is the unanimous opinion of our Board that the cooperation of the Catholic National Welfare Conference is essential to the work we hope to accomplish. We have provided that the convoy shall be accompanied by five Basque Catholic priests. Nevertheless, it is the conviction of our Board that the supervision and education of the children from the Catholic viewpoint will not be complete without official Catholic cooperation in the United States.

This decision was reached independently of any pressure or of any possible attitude of Governmental officials on the question. Our Board is firmly convinced that it is foreign to our form of government to set up religious requirements of any denomination as a prerequisite condition to any charitable or humanitarian action.
It has been our intention, from the very beginning, to ask for your cooperation immediately after a favorable government decision had secured the visas for the children and thereby the proper start of our action. It appears, however, that certain groups not in possession of authorized information concerning the character and objectives of our relief work, have cast doubts upon the underlying intentions. We, therefore, are anxious to obtain here and now the same measure of Catholic cooperation granted in other countries which is very essential to our undertaking in the United States.

We are positive that it is in complete accord with the wishes of the Basque Government, whose official cooperation we have, and to whom we will be anxious to report the attitude of the Catholic Welfare agencies concerning their Basque children.

May we therefore suggest that the Catholic National Welfare Conference appoint a delegate to our resident Executive Committee in order to advise us and give full cooperation in all our plans.

Our Executive Committee would be most happy to have your reply on the matter at your earliest convenience in view of the arrival of 7310 children at Saint Jean de Luz today, and generally because of the growing emergency of the non-combattant civilians in the Autonomous Basque Republic.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) William E. Dodd, Jr.

Acting General Secretary
American Board of Guardians
June 15, 1937

Miss Mary LaDame,
Department of Labor,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss LaDame:

Here are the documents of which I spoke to you over the telephone. They are self-explanatory, I hope.

You asked whether these documents call for action and I replied, "Yes." But I beg that it not be precipitate action, that it be delayed until the National Catholic Welfare Conference, through Monsignor Michael J. Ready, general secretary, has a chance to react and until the changed circumstances brought about by the tremendous flow of children to St. Jean de Léa and Bordeaux with the consequent serious overcrowding of facilities there be fully considered. The picture of this country denying asylum to any of the children while the ships of France and England and other countries are rescuing them under shell-fire is not one of which many of us brought up in the American tradition of humanitarianism may be proud.

Last Friday I had a long session with Monsignor Ready of the Catholic Welfare Conference and he raised various questions of a distinctly political-religious nature which seemed to me not in the least germane to the problem. Earlier in the day Father MacGowan, who has been one of my good friends, had told me there was fear among the hierarchy that the children—those Hitt and Catholics—would be weeded away from the Church during their stay here. Nevertheless, our conversations at the Catholic Welfare Conference headquarters led me to send immediately a letter to the Board of Guardians in New York urging that an invitation be extended forthwith to the Catholic Conference to participate. I enclose a copy of that letter for your information. Please use your judgement as to whether it should be shown to Miss Perkins.

It is unfortunate that the objections to the humanitarian project voiced by Grace Abbott and echoed yesterday by Mrs. Roosevelt at her press conference should be identical with those expressed by various Catholic and Catholic organizations. I agree thoroughly with Mrs. O’Day who expressed herself emphatically on this subject. Of course there are difficulties, as she said, but in what work while undertaking there are none at all? And as for the "feeling of insecurity" brought to the children by change of environment, surely the change to England is no less great than the change to this country. The difference is only a few days more of the water. A newspaper friend, talking to me yesterday on the matter, said a friend of his had remarked upon Mrs. Roosevelt’s comments, "Upsetting and sense of insecurity! I suppose she and Miss Perkins would say that a shell hole in their accustomed environment would maintain a sense of security in them."

By information is that applications for visas are actually being made at St. Jean de Léa now, that the State Department has authorized Vice-Consul Chapman (formerly of Bilbao) who is with Ambassador Bowser there to receive and act upon applications.
Dear Gardner,

To-day we have sent a strong cable across about the immediate necessity of a formal application in Sait Jean de Luz.

We know we will have a cable from President Aguirre by Monday.

Read the last Literary Digest and the leading article of the Post to-day.

Some telegrams are pouring in to Fanny.

Yours

[Signature]
THE PRESIDENT'S ADVICE TO THE STEEL MILLS

President Roosevelt's press-conference comment on the steel strike, advising the steel mills to sign with the union, is both courageous and opportune.

Courageous, because it comes at a time when the reactionary press is playing up every "outrage" by strikers and loudly calling on the Government to crack down on the union.

Opportunie, because the statement may help to smash the phony "back-to-work" drive that the steel mills are organizing throughout the strike territory.

That the great mass of the people in the forty-six States which supported Roosevelt last November made a correct judgment is demonstrated to the full in the President's comment.

We have a Chief Executive who cannot be thrown off balance by tremendous reactionary pressure, by the biased comment in the bulk of the press, or even by ill-advised actions on the part of strikers themselves.

He has the intellectual stability to sense that unionism is an ultimate good in itself and to hold firm for it, apart from circumstances of the moment.

The President's comment has the usual crystallizing and clarifying Roosevelt touch.

Tom Girdler's Republic Steel has taken the position that it is willing to give its workers an oral agreement, and the union. It announces its willingness to bargain, but declares it will never sign a contract. Thus it hopes to contrive a situation out of the Wagner act, while negating the effective right of collective bargaining.

In making this statement, Girdler's position. It highlights the fact that the agreement was at first lukewarm to the national labor-relations act. Mr. Connery was never afraid to fight even the White House, as is shown in his battle for prevailing wages on public works and on the WPA wage scale.

Mr. Connery was only forty-eight when he died. He had been in Congress since 1922 but came to prominence in 1931 when the Democrats organized the House. He became chair-man of the Labor Committee, and he used his power and his position on behalf of the workers and the underprivileged. His passing is a loss labor will not find it easy to repair. There are not many men in Congress who will fight as hard as he did.

WHY?

"West of Bilbao, insurgent reconnaissance planes report roads crowded with fleeing soldiers and civilians, women struggling along with their crying children."—Webb Miller. United Press correspondent, from Insurgent Field Headquarters outside Bilbao June 15.

Why has Secretary of Labor Perkins so far refused to permit Basque refugee children to enter this country?

Must we be the only one of the democratic nations that has refused to do its share in helping the child victims of the murderous attack on the Basque provinces?

The French, the British, the Belgians, the Scandinavians have all aided in alleviating the distress of these children and in taking care of them.

Huge camps have been established in France and Britain to house the children. Catholic organizations have taken part in caring for them. The Bishop of Vitoria has written to thank the Belgians for their work on behalf of these poor refugees. There is no religious issue involved. There can be no religious objection to aid for children rendered homeless by the Spanish civil war.

Even those who have not objected to the Fascist air attacks on the homes of these children do not dare object to aid for the victims.

What is Secretary Perkins afraid of?

How the Court "Protects" Labor

Very embarrassing.

On one page of the New York Times Tuesday was the text of the Senate Judiciary Committee report rejecting the President's Court reform plan.

The committee quoted from the famous American Foundries case decision by the Supreme Court to show that the Court was a protector of the rights of labor and that its protection would be undermined by Mr. Roosevelt's proposal to enlarge and liberalize it.

On another page of the New York Times Mr. Arthur Krock, its Washington correspondent, cited the very same case to show that the C.I.O. was violating the law because the Supreme Court had severely limited the right to picket.
Dr. Frank Bohn, Secretary,
American Board of Guardians for
Basque Refugio Children,
20 Vysoy Street,
New York, New York.

Sir:

I have your letter of May 22, 1937, in regard to your interest in the applications for non-immigrant passport visas which you state will shortly be made at the American Consulate General at Paris, France, on the part of five hundred Basque children evacuated from the war zone in Spain.

As to the general question of the admission of these children into the United States as temporary visitors, I wish to express to your organization the real and profound sympathy of the Department of State with the plight of these children, caused by their departure, under difficult circumstances, from their homes in Spain. Any humane person would have a natural desire to be of any possible assistance to persons in this situation.

I feel that the Department can be most helpful by indicating certain legal aspects of the question. Visitors visas may only be issued to aliens who are able to qualify as non-immigrant temporary visitors within the meaning of Section 3 (a) of the Immigration Act of 1924. The Department of Labor has defined a temporary visitor, under this section, as follows:

"An alien visiting the United States temporarily as a tourist or temporarily for business or pleasure shall be construed to mean an alien who, having a fixed domicile in some other country which he has no intention to abandon, comes to the United States to remain for a temporary period only."

Your attention is also called to that portion of Section 3 of the Immigration Act of 1917, which includes among the groups of aliens inadmissible into the United States: "All children under sixteen years of age, unaccompanied by or not coming to one or both of their parents, except that any such children may, in the discretion of the Secretary of Labor, be admitted if in his opinion they are not likely to become a public charge and are otherwise eligible."

Another portion of Section 3 of the same Act, defining aliens inadmissible into the United States, which might also have a bearing on the present discussion, is the following: "Personas whose ticket or passage is paid for by any corporation, association, society, municipality, or foreign government, either directly or indirectly."
The individual decision as to whether those children may be issued passport visas at any American consulate abroad is in the hands of the consular officer concerned, who must, of course, be guided by existing provisions of the law. You may feel satisfied, however, that the consular officers concerned will consider these cases in the most humane and generous way possible under the law.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) SUMNER WELLES

Acting Secretary of State.
FOR THE PRESS

MAY 25, 1937

AMERICAN BOARD OF GUARDIANS FOR BASQUE REFUGEE CHILDREN
NEW YORK CITY

Hon. Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

The American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children is arranging with the Basque Delegation in Paris (attached to the Paris Embassy of Spain) for the transportation of five hundred Basque refugee children to the United States.

This is part of a concerted effort by democratic countries to help to evacuate women, children, and the unprotected civilian population from the war zone, regardless of race, creed or politics.

It is, of course, unnecessary to call to your attention the terrible emergency that has arisen in the autonomous Basque Republic. We therefore believe that our Government will find no difficulty in giving us assistance within the framework of existing laws.

We intend to apply through the American Consulate General in Paris for temporary visitors' (non-quota) visas which will enable the children to take refuge in the United States during the Spanish civil war.

Apart from this routine application, however, we would like to inquire concerning the views of the State Department on this matter. We feel confident that we will be fortunate enough to have your assistance should minor technical difficulties appear to hamper this humanitarian enterprise.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Dr. Frank Bohn, Secretary, American Board of Guardians for Basque Refugee Children.
From: Gardner Jackson  
Room 505A, Insurance Bldg.  
Washington, D. C.  

May 25, 1937

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Following application for visas today at the American Consulate General in  
Paris for the 500 Basque children to be brought to this country from Bilbao for  
temporary refuge, Dr. Frank Bohn, Secretary of The American Board of Guardians for  
Basque Refugee Children, will communicate with Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins  
concerning the waiving of certain technicalities governing the admission of  
children as temporary visitors to the United States, Gardner Jackson, Washington  
representative of the Board, said today.

"As in the case of the State Department whose foreign service officials are  
in charge of the granting of visas we anticipate no difficulty at the Department  
of Labor whose Bureau of Immigration controls admissions to this country," Jackson  
said. "The regulation providing that children under 16 brought here from abroad  
must be under the care of guardians or parents en route or must be destined for  
the immediate care of guardians or parents upon arrival here will prove to be no  
serious obstacle, we are confident. Applications from private individuals and  
families to take the Basque children during their temporary asylum here are coming  
into the headquarters of the Board at 20 Vesey St., New York City, in large numbers.  
Also there are a number of camps expressing a desire to take groups of the children  
when they arrive.

"It is interesting to note, Jackson added, "that the first two camps to  
apply for the opportunity of caring for groups of the Basque refugees were the  
Italian Settlement House Camp of Brooklyn, N.Y., and the Naturfreunde Camp of New  
York, a German-American organization." Jackson said the French liner Sinaia was  
scheduled to leave St. Jean de Luz, France, today to get the children at Bilbao  
and its departure from that beleaguered city would depend upon the military  
situation since the port of Bilbao is within range of some rebel guns. Negotiations  
are pending to bring the children to this country from Havre on the U. S.  
Liner President Roosevelt, Jackson explained.

At the same time Jackson made public a letter from Dr. Bohn to Secretary of  
State Hull in which the former described the purposes of the Board as "part of a  
concerted effort by democratic countries to help evacuate women, children, and the  
unprotected civilian population from the war zone, regardless of race, creed or  
politics." Jackson described as "beneath contempt" those individuals and  
organizations in this country who are trying to throw obstacles in the path of  
this "humanitarian effort in which France and England are participating", by  
reading into it political or other aims. Dr. Bohn's letter follows:--
May 22, 1937

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Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

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American Board of Guardians  
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Room 5054, Insurance Bldg.
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